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MDNG-AG

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MEMORANDUM FOR All Maryland Military Department Members

SUBJECT: Maryland Military Department Fall Safety Message

1. As the temperature begins to drop, the reality of the fall and winter seasons is upon us. We must make a continued effort to protect ourselves, our Families and our fellow service members and Civilians from all kinds of, mishaps, injury and illness that can impact the overall readiness of the force.
2. Take time to carefully plan your activities, and be mindful of the hazards that usually come with the change in seasons. Take precautions at home, at work and during your training. Leaders must be involved and effectively communicate with their employees or service members to promote safe, responsible behavior. Ensure that everyone gets the flu shot. If you're sick, stay home. If you see someone is sick, send them home to prevent the spread of germs.
3. Always watch your speed when traveling as road conditions can change. Ensure that you are prepared and have the proper safety equipment. If you ride a motorcycle, make yourself visible. Choose riding gear that increases your visibility in traffic in addition to providing protection in the event of a crash. Use bright colors and retro-reflective strips or decals, especially at night.
4. In an effort to address the dangerous practice of distracted driving, Maryland state law banning the use of handheld devices while driving, became effective October 1, 2013. Law enforcement officers will cite violators as a primary offense. The issue with distracted driving still exists, and prevention lies with each individual. From tuning the radio to fumbling with the GPS, any distraction that requires taking your eyes and attention off the road poses a problem for motorists and pedestrians alike. That one second of inattention can mean the difference between life and death. Don't do it.
5. Make sure that your Family is prepared for any emergency. If we get called to help during a winter storm, make sure that they'll be alright without you. It could take as much as 72 hours for normal services to return to most areas after a bad storm. Roads could be blocked, and the power could be out for days.
6. I encourage each Maryland Military Department member to make a commitment to take individual responsibility for their actions. Incorporate the risk management process into your daily decision-making to encourage better choices, and pass it along to protect your loved ones.

JAMES A. ADKINS
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The Adjutant General